Kalka-Parwanoo rail line

3453. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a long standing demand from Himachal Pradesh, for laying rail line from Kalka to Parwanoo and for Nangal-Una- Talwara rail line;

(b) whether Government have considered these demands and taken action; and

(c) if so, the details of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Both the projects have been sanctioned.

(c) (i) The final location survey for rail line between Kalka and Parwanoo has been completed and land acquisition papers have been submitted to the State Government. An outlay of Rs. 4.05 crore has been proposed for this work in the budget 2002-2003.

(ii) The first phase from Nangal Dam - Una has been commissioned. The work is in progress in second phase from Una to Chururu Takrala (16 Kms.) where earthwork and bridges are in progress. An outlay of Rs. 10 crs. has been proposed for this work in the budget 2002-2003.

Taran Taran—Goindwal rail line

3454. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of on-going projects for construction of rail lines in Punjab, during the last two years;

(b) whether any proposal for construction of Taran Taran-Goindwal rail line project is under consideration of Government;

(c) whether Government are aware that the above project is going to affect small and marginal farmers, holding one to two acres of land, on which their livelihood depends;

(d) whether villagers of the area are not interested in this project because of high cost of construction/economically unviability with low passengers traffic; and

(e) if so, whether Government propose to re-examine/abandon the above project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The details of on-going rail projects falling partly/fully in Punjab during the last two years are given as under:—

(i) New broad gauge rail line between Chandigarh and Ludhiana.

(ii) New broad gauge rail line between Taran Taran and Goindwal.

(iii) New broad gauge rail line between Abohar and Fazilka.

(iv) New broad gauge rail line between Beas and Dera Baba Jaimal Singh.

(v) New broad gauge rail line between Nangal Dam and Talwara.

(vi) Doubling between Jallandhar - Jammu Tawi *via* Pathankot.

(b) The project is already in progress.

(c) and (d) The land is acquired by the State Government for which papers have already been submitted to the State Government. No such representation in this regard has been received by the Ministry.

(e) Does not arise.

Unmanned railway crossings in A.P.

3455. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway level crossings in Andhra Pradesh not provided with gates and man power;

(b) whether it is a fact that the absence of such gates and men is very dangerous and causes accidents; and

(c) if so, the details of action being taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) 1478 nos.

(b) No, Sir. Accidents at unmanned level crossings occur due to the negligence of the road users who fail to follow the road signs and the rules and stipulations contained in the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988 for safe crossing at level crossings.

(c) Does not arise.